



YOUR ENERGY CONNECTION

Plan for High Heating Bills this Winter

There is no simple answer or solution to the problem of the anticipated high winter heating bills. The tried and true methods of staying warm will be required this winter. The proposed increases in the cost of natural gas, electricity and other fuels can only mean that everyone will need to conserve.

Hurricane Katrina has had a most harmful effect on natural gas suppliers from the Gulf of Mexico. Most production sites were shut down in anticipation of the hurricane and many have not been able to reopen due to excessive damage. This industry will slowly reopen but will greatly affect the natural gas supply. Fortunately this time of year, there is a low demand for natural gas. We should begin now to conserve! There are many energy saving ideas to follow, but many customers may want to take the opportunity to start saving for high winter utility bills and utilize the city's budget billing program. October is the month to sign up! The city is anticipating a possible increase in natural gas costs from the supplier due to the devastation on the Gulf Coast. That information will be passed along to all customers as soon as it is known.

There is no word as of yet of an increase in electric costs but coal costs continue to increase as well as global demand for coal. The city will continue to monitor that demand and all changes taking place.

How can you conserve and keep your energy costs in control?

- 1. Have your heating units serviced to make sure they are operating efficiently*
- 2. Maintain a constant temperature of 68 degrees or lower*
- 3. Change filters at least once every three months, preferably every month*
- 4. Layer clothing*
- 5. Insulate your home, caulk windows and doors*
- 6. Install a programmable thermostat*
- 7. Do not block heating registers with rugs or furniture*
- 8. If using a heat pump, do not bump the thermostat more than 2 degrees at one time to avoid activating the heat strips*



BEAT THE PEAK

“Peak” or “Peak Demand” is the greatest amount of electricity used at one time by an electric system, normally when a large number of customers are using appliances at the same time. By controlling the electric load or load management, we can keep electric costs in control. Rocky Mount averages approximately less than 10 days per month load managing. There are several options available:

Electric Water Heater Control-

Water heaters are cycled off during load management periods. Controlling water heaters will not affect the amount of hot water available. Customers receive **\$2.00** credit each month.

Electric Heat Strip Control-

Heat strips are controlled during the winter load management periods, while compressors continue to provide heat. Customers receive **\$15.00** credit each month if the temperature falls to 25 degrees or below on a non-holiday weekday.

Central Air Conditioning Total Control-

Customers receive **\$20.00** credit each month for July, August, and September. The credit is calculated based on yearly consumption. The compressor is turned off for the entire load management period. Fans will continue to circulate the cool air in your house, but your compressor will not generate any new cool air.

There are no installation or maintenance charges associated with this program.

**Call 972-1283 for more information .
Start your savings now!**



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Hurricane Season is Here! Be Prepared and Have Your Emergency Supplies on Hand

What can you do?

- When you hear hurricane, think inland flooding.
- Determine whether you live in a potential flood zone.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Keep abreast of road conditions through the news media.
- Move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water.
- Do not attempt to cross flowing water. As little as six inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Develop a flood emergency action plan.

If you are asked to evacuate, you should do so without delay. But unless you live in a coastal or low-lying area, an area that floods frequently, or in manufactured housing, it is unlikely that emergency managers will ask you to evacuate. That means that it is important for you and your family to **HAVE A PLAN** that makes you as safe as possible in your home.

Mowing and Spraying of Right of Ways

You will soon see crews mowing and spraying the City right of ways to improve access. The spraying kills the trees but allows the grass to survive. The chemicals used for spraying are not dangerous to animals, plants, or people. Most right of ways are away from residential properties.



What to Do if You Smell Gas

Call the Rocky Mount Gas Department immediately, anytime day or night.

Day 972-1278

Night 972-1414

If you detect a gas leak, we want to know right away. Don't try to locate the problem yourself. If the odor is inside your home or business, an emergency situation could exist, and you should evacuate as a safety measure. Open a window and make sure you use no electrical switches. Extinguish any open flames and evacuate the area.